

Applicants : Niall R. Lynam and John O. Lindahl
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 12, please replace the paragraphs starting on lines 1 and 13 with the following new paragraphs:

Referring to FIG. 1, the numeral 10 generally designates an interior rearview mirror assembly which incorporates at least one non-incandescent light source unit/module 16 of the present invention. As will be more fully described below, rearview mirror assembly 10 includes a carrier 12 with an incandescent light source circuit member 14 (FIG. 4) to which non-incandescent light source unit/module 16 is electrically coupled in an incandescent light source socket (formed by contact elements 14a, 14b or 14c, 14d). Thus, non-incandescent light source unit 16 provides a replacement for a conventional incandescent light source, such as a filament light bulb. Alternatively, light source unit 16 may be electrically coupled via connections or contacts to corresponding connectors or contacts of other circuits that are connected to the vehicle ignition battery. In this manner, light source unit 16 provides a compact and serviceable light source that can be used in a wide variety of applications.

Referring to FIG. 3, in the illustrated embodiment mirror assembly 10 includes a pair of non-incandescent light source units/ modules 16, which are adapted to be electrically powered by incandescent light source circuit member 14 and, further, to be mechanically held (preferably releasably held to assist insertion and removal such as during assembly or in service) in sockets formed by arms or contact elements 14a, 14b, 14c and 14d of circuit member 14. The incandescent light source circuit of mirror assembly 10 (that preferably includes an ON/OFF and/or a rheostat switch such as driver-side switch 30 or passenger-side switch 30') connects the vehicle ignition/vehicle battery line of the vehicle to, for example, contact element 14a and vehicle ground to contact element 14c, as illustrated in FIG. 3B, so that vehicle ignition voltage (typically 12 volts nominal but it can be in the 9 volt to 16 volt range, or higher or lower depending on the vehicle type) is applied across contact[[s]] elements 14a,14b when switch 30 is closed (such as by actuation by a driver of the vehicle or when a door opens). Non-incandescent light source unit 16 preferably comprises a light emitting diode light source unit or module, which produces less heat than conventional incandescent light sources and, further, which preferably provides directional light. The directional light characteristic of light source unit ~~or module~~ 16 enables the manufacturer of the mirror assembly to simplify or eliminate light directing elements, such as reflectors and/or optical lenses, which are typically required in association with incandescent light sources. As

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understood by those skilled in the art, incandescent light sources, such as a heated filament, project light radially outward in many directions and are, therefore, generally non-directional light sources.

On page 14, please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 with the following new paragraph:

As previously noted, mirror assembly 10 includes a carrier 12, which supports incandescent light source circuit member 14. In addition, carrier 12 may support one or more electrical/electronic components, including for example ~~buttons~~ switches 30, 30' for actuating light source units/modules 16 and other electrical devices, such as described below. Referring to FIG. 4, each light source module 16 includes one or more non-incandescent light sources 32, such as LEDs, and preferably at least two light sources, more preferably at least three light sources, and most preferably more than four light sources. The number of the LEDs will depend on the application and, further, on the type of LED that is chosen.

On page 14, please replace the paragraph starting on line 30 with the following new paragraph:

In the illustrated embodiment, light sources 32 are interconnected by a non-incandescent light source circuit 34 and commonly mounted on a circuit board 36. Circuit 34 includes or is electrically coupled to electrical contact[[s]] elements 40a and 40b, which form contacts. Contact[[s]] elements 40a, 40b preferably comprise "male" plug connectors (that are optionally integrally molded with circuit board 36) which are adapted so that the module 16 may be plugged into the corresponding "female" socket connector or connectors (formed by electrical contact elements 14a, 14b or 14c, 14d) provided on the incandescent light source circuit member 14. It should be understood that module 16 may include female connectors, with circuit member 14 incorporating male connectors. Contact[[s]] elements 40a, 40b preferably are directly connected to circuit board 36. Where the contact[[s]] elements are separate elements, the contact[[s]] elements are interconnected with circuit 34, such as by solder via, for example, a wire interconnect. Referring back to FIG. 4, when light source unit 16 is coupled to circuit member 14, electrical contact[[s]] elements 40a and 40b are engaged by arms or electrical contact elements connectors 14a, 14b or 14c, 14d of circuit member 14. This engagement provides both a mechanical connection and an electrical connection that is secure but releasable to allow coupling or decoupling of light source unit 16.

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On page 21, please replace the paragraph on line 19 with the following new paragraph:

In the illustrated embodiment, circuit member 14 comprises a preformed circuit member which is stamped from a metal, such as brass or UNS-C26000 3/4 hard brass having a thickness of about .025 inches. Circuit member 14 includes a series of bus strips 15 which extend and distribute electricity to light source holders or connectors formed by electrical contact elements 14a, 14b and 14c, 14d. Alternately, rigid or flexible metallic wire can also be used. For further details of circuit member 14, reference is made to U.S. Pat. No. 6,124, 886, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

On page 44, please replace the paragraph starting on line 30 with the following new paragraph:

Light source modules 116 are of similar construction to light source modules 16, with each light source module 116 including one or more non-incandescent light sources 132, such as LEDs. As noted previously, bulb holders 118a, 118b comprise socket type holders. Therefore, in this application each light source module 116 includes a base [[130]] 131, similar in shape and size to a conventional incandescent bulb so that light source unit 116 can be plugged directly into holders 118a and 118b. Light sources 132 are electrically connected together such that their total forward operating voltage is at least 2 volts, more preferably at least 4 volts, and most preferably in a range of 2 volts to 16 volts.

On page 45, please replace the paragraph starting on line 5 with the following new paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 9B, light sources 132 are mounted on a circuit board 133 which include a non-incandescent light source circuit 134 with projecting electrical connectors 134a and 134b, such as leads, which couple to base [[130]] 131. Lead 134a comprises a ground lead which couples the ground contact of base [[130]] 131 and lead 134b comprises a power lead that couples to the power contact of base [[130]] 131.